

Amendments

In the Claims:

Please substitute claims 1-11, 14-18, 20, and 22-29 presented below for claims 1-11, 14-18, 20, and 22-29 previously presented. Please cancel claims 12-13, 19, 21 and 30-39. The status of each claim is indicated. Currently amended claims are shown with additions underlined and deletions in ~~strikethrough~~.

1. (Previously presented) A ureteral stent for assisting in the drainage of fluid from a body cavity comprising:
 - an elongated member comprising a distal end and a proximal end and defining a first lumen extending therebetween; and
 - a valve disposed at the proximal end of the elongated member, the valve comprising:
 - a tube defining a second lumen in fluid connection with the first lumen, the tube comprising a first end connected to the proximal end of the elongated member, and a socket;
 - a shaft at least partially disposed in the socket; and
 - a stopper connected to the shaft that occludes the second lumen when exposed to retrograde pressure.
2. (Previously presented) The ureteral stent of claim 1, wherein the shaft is fixed in the socket.

3. (Previously presented) The ureteral stent of claim 2, wherein the stopper comprises a deformable film.
4. (Previously presented) The ureteral stent of claim 1, wherein the shaft is axially translatable in the socket.
5. (Previously presented) The ureteral stent of claim 4, wherein the shaft is tapered inwardly toward the stopper and the socket is tapered inwardly toward the stopper, both preventing complete removal of the shaft from the socket.
6. (Previously presented) The ureteral stent of claim 4, wherein the valve further comprises a spring disposed in the socket that is biased to open the valve in the absence of a retrograde pressure.
7. (Currently amended) The ureteral stent of claim 1, wherein the tube further defines at least one additional lumen in fluid connection with the first lumen, ~~wherein~~ the second lumen and the additional lumen are disposed about the periphery of the socket.
8. (Previously presented) The ureteral stent of claim 1, wherein the stopper comprises a substantially circular surface and the shaft is attached to the stopper at the center of the circular surface.

9. (Previously presented) The ureteral stent of claim 1, wherein the stopper further comprises a lip disposed about the periphery of a distal surface of the stopper.

10. (Previously presented) The ureteral stent of claim 1, wherein the stopper comprises a substantially hemispherical surface and the shaft is attached to the stopper at the center of the hemispherical surface.

11. (Previously presented) The ureteral stent of claim 1, wherein the stopper comprises a substantially wedge-shaped section.

12.-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) The ureteral stent of claim 1, further comprising a retention structure extending distally from the distal end of the elongated member.

15. (Previously presented) The ureteral stent of claim 14, wherein the retention structure further defines a passageway extending between an opening and the first lumen.

16. (Previously presented) The ureteral stent of claim 1, further comprising a retention structure extending from the stopper.

17. (Previously presented) The ureteral stent of claim 16, wherein the retention structure is a lip disposed about a periphery of the stopper having a perimeter wider than the proximal end of the elongated member.

18. (Currently amended) A valve for preventing reflux of fluids in a ureteral stent comprising:

a tube defining a lumen having a first end and a second end, and a socket;

a shaft at least partially disposed in the socket, the shaft being fixedly coupled to the socket; and

a stopper attached to the shaft that occludes the lumen when exposed to retrograde pressure.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) The valve of claim 18, wherein the stopper comprises a deformable film.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) A valve for preventing reflux of fluids in a ureteral stent comprising:

a tube defining a lumen having a first end and a second end, and a socket;

a shaft at least partially disposed in the socket, the shaft being axially translatable in the socket; and

a stopper attached to the shaft that occludes the lumen when exposed to retrograde pressure~~The of valve claim 21, wherein the shaft beingis tapered inwardly toward the stopper, and the socket beingis tapered inwardly toward the stopper, the taper of the shaft and the taper of the socket helping toboth preventing complete removal of the shaft from the socket.~~

23. (Currently amended) The valve of claim ~~22~~18, wherein the valve further comprises a spring disposed in the socket that is biased to open the valve in the absence of retrograde pressure.

24. (Currently amended) The valve of claim 18, the lumen being a first lumen, wherein the tube further defines at least one additional lumen, ~~wherein the first lumen and the additional lumen are disposed about the periphery of the socket.~~

25. (Currently amended) The valve of claim ~~22~~18, wherein the stopper comprises a substantially circular surface and the shaft is attached to the stopper at the center of the circular surface.

26. (Currently amended) A valve for preventing reflux of fluids in a ureteral stent comprising:

a tube defining a lumen having a first end and a second end, and a socket;

a shaft at least partially disposed in the socket; and

a stopper attached to the shaft that occludes the lumen when exposed to retrograde pressure. ~~The valve of claim 18, wherein the stopper having further comprises a lip disposed about the periphery of a distal surface of the stopper.~~

27. (Previously presented) The valve of claim 18, wherein the stopper comprises a substantially hemispherical surface and the shaft is attached to the stopper at the center of the hemispherical surface.

28. (Currently amended) The valve of claim ~~22~~18, wherein the stopper comprises a substantially wedge-shaped section.

29. (Previously presented) A method of assisting the drainage of fluid from a body cavity, the method comprising:

providing a ureteral stent comprising:

an elongated member comprising a distal end and a proximal end and defining a first lumen extending therebetween; and

a valve disposed at the proximal end of the elongated member, the valve comprising:

a tube defining a second lumen in fluid connection with the first lumen, the tube comprising a first end connected to the proximal end of the elongated member, and a socket;

a shaft at least partially disposed in the socket; and

a stopper connected to the shaft that occludes the second lumen when exposed to retrograde pressure; and

inserting said device into a ureter.

30.-39. (Canceled)